

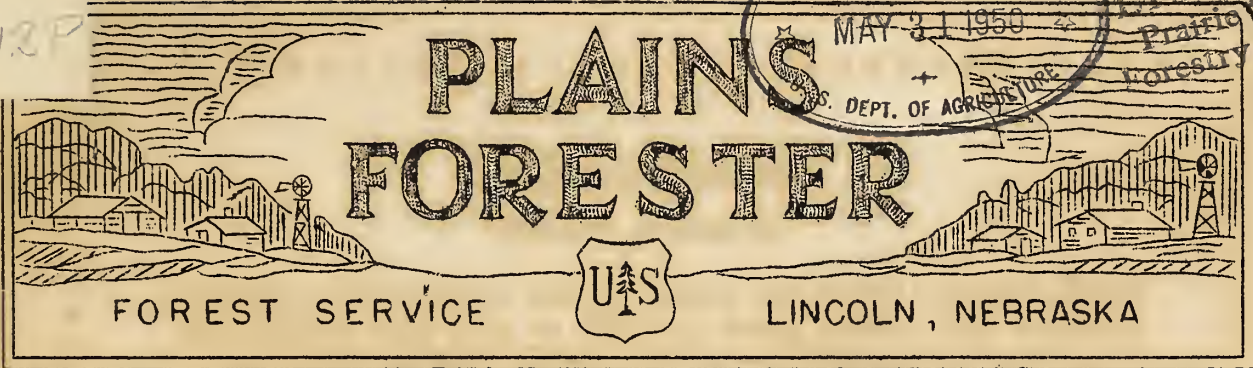
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PLAINS FORESTER



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A LOUD AMEN FROM THIS CORNER

We were just fixing to write an article about the war and our new responsibilities because of it, when along came the Region Nine "Daily Contact" with the job all done up, and a lot better than we had figured on being able to do it. So we just adopt it, lock, stock and barrel:

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

At 11:30 Monday morning the Regional Office, like the whole suddenly and solidly United States, stopped its varied activities to listen to Franklin Delano Roosevelt as he asked Congress for a recognition of an existing state of war between this country and Japan.

Before the lunch hour was over, less than 60 minutes later, Congress, with only one dissenting vote, had passed a joint resolution formally declaring war.

Thus, with Sunday's treacherous attack on America's Pacific possessions and this country's quick response, the period of doubt and discussion and honest dissension ends. As we enter the seventh war in the history of the United States, we in the government service wonder what we can do to hasten its ultimate and certain victory.

The means at our disposal are not the kind to inspire rhetorical enthusiasm. They have been outlined many times before, but in the grim light of war they achieve a new importance.

We can buy stamps and bonds, and more stamps and bonds than most of us are buying now. We can conserve the government's time by doing a full day's work, and a little bit more when need arises; we can save its equipment and supplies by eliminating carelessness and waste; and we can find our niche in the civilian defense program.

It doesn't seem like much to be doing when American soldiers and sailors are dying and coastal cities prepare quietly for air attack. All the more reason, then, to do it willingly and well, preparing meanwhile for greater sacrifices ahead.

"MORALE" PLANTINGS

Apropos of Roberts' recent circular, the writer would like to discuss a type of demonstration planting which is beginning to attract attention in this state. We do not know by just what name it should be classified but anyway we do have a few "pilot plantings" of the nature described.

All of the Prairie States have thousands of little rural villages numbering from 20 souls to 1000 or so. Probably half of these towns are virtually treeless. They used to do a lot of business; now the auto has a tendency to whiz by them without even slackening speed. The result is that they are getting even more dreary and bedraggled. Did you ever come along in the evening just at sunset or by moonlight at 20 degrees below zero and see these little towns? They look like fantastic mushrooms ready to blow away with the first windstorm. Not very attractive to the people who live there, and still less attractive to the passerby.

Nevertheless people live here, usually not very well, and the lot of the ones who remain does not seem to be improving much. In the deepest hollows of the depression some of these little towns had 25 WPA families. We know of cases where towns of 300 or 400 population had as high as 75 such families.

Some of the larger of these towns have Kiwanians or Rotary Clubs or the local church may be pretty strong. They have been after us to plant trees for them. We have planted some at Carrington, Michigan and Oakes, to name a few. The plantings have been in the nature of demonstration shelterbelts. We did it on the theory that it was good "negotiation" publicity. Actually it is far more than that. Some people will always have to live in some of these small towns. They will probably never get rich but if trees will make their lot more comfortable maybe they will also serve in causing the fast-moving auto to hesitate long enough so the local folks can gather a few nickels before it moves on.

The town of Spiritwood is one of the best examples of towns needing forestry help. The population is listed as 250. The town is on Highway #10. Each summer a million or more autos go through it at from 25 to 50 miles per hour. The city has 12 or 15 or maybe 50 stagheaded trees (I haven't counted them). Otherwise it is all in the open. There is almost nothing between the General Store and the North Pole to break the wind. Only one or two people have any garden at all. Without exaggerating too much, I believe the wind would blow the pumpkins off the vines most of the summer, if they were not protected. In winter the wind drifts snow up around the unpainted homes 15 to 20 feet deep. Some of the residents have to almost tunnel out. Here is what I think these towns need. They need a shelterbelt to protect their town first and to bolster a little civic pride in planting and beautifying the town. Such a plan should provide for a community garden space protected by shelterbelts. A protected spot for the children to play. A protected spot for travelers to stop and eat lunch - a little holding ground, as it were, to give the small merchant a chance to snare a few tourist nickels.

Here is one of the chief obstacles: The town has to have some civic group with pride enough to buy some land, guarantee care of the trees, etc. This is quite a hurdle.

What should we call this type of planting? Maybe we should call them "Morale" plantings. Anyway there are thousands of these plantings urgently needed. Prevention of human erosion is important, to my way of thinking. We have tried a few such plantings in North Dakota. I am asking Jeffers and Thomas to describe some of the cases now being tried for the benefit of the readers of PLAINS FORESTER.

- L. A. Williams, N. Dak.

IS THIS THE WAY YOUR MONEY GOES?

If you want to convince yourself that there is plenty of profit to be had from operating your automobile sensibly, have a look at some facts obtained from studies made by the Iowa State College in cooperation with

the U. S. Public Roads Administration. The studies were made in 260,000 miles of driving over two test routes on Iowa highways, one concrete and the other gravel, and each approximately 235 miles long. They showed the following:

At a 65-mile per hour top cruising speed, as compared with 40 miles per hour, gas consumption was more than 30 percent higher. Yet the average gain in speed was only 15 miles an hour, since the faster driver had to slow down more frequently and with greater abruptness.

Oil consumption increased at an even greater rate - four times as much oil is used at 65 m.p.h. as at a 40-mile top cruising speed.

Tire wear at 65 m.p.h. is $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as great as at 40 m.p.h.

To sum it all up and to sort of twist the knife in the wound, as it were, at 65 miles per hour it costs you approximately 40 percent more to operate your car than at 45 m.p.h. You will spend about \$45 more for each 10,000 miles if you drive at 65 instead of 40 m.p.h.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

PINE THRIVES "DOWN SOUTH"

Reference is made to "Bragging" by Howard Carleton.

Carleton just thinks he has a monopoly on Southern Pine with his measley shortleaf. Not only do we have Shortleaf Pine but also Loblolly, Longleaf, and Slash Pine. If Roy Morgan had done right by us we would also have what the Louisianans so fondly call Bastard Pine (*Pinus sonderegger*).

The Loblolly Pine is "chin high to a nigger jumping a rail fence" and was planted four years later than the Carleton scrub--pardon--Shortleaf Pine.

- Thomas C. Croker, Jr., Tex.

KEEP 'EM ROLLING

No trip is too urgent, no job too important, to keep us from taking the time to take the best of care of our motor equipment.

- Carroll C. Deal, Okla.

State Office Comment:

When Carroll submitted the above article to the State Office, he said he didn't have time to write a longer one. Carroll is a busy man these days trying to get all motor equipment in shape for stock hauling and the planting season, and we sympathize with his predicament. On the other hand, while Carroll's article for PLAINS FORESTER consists of about 25 brief words, this correspondent thinks he has written a whole volume as far as ideas are concerned.

- K. W. Taylor

VERSATILE WINDBREAKS

Cal Oamek, of South Dakota, sends in a couple of press clippings that illustrate the extreme versatility of trees in the Plains country. One of them is from Wallace's Farmer, and says:

"Corn stood up well all over Iowa through most of October. 'The boys have about forgot how to husk down corn,' said a farmer in Bremer county. But they learned again in northwestern Iowa after the big wind, Sunday, October 26.

"I saw fields in Clay and Beuna Vista counties that looked as if they had been hogged down, so flat did the stalks lie. Shelter by a grove saved the corners of some fields, but in the open the stalks went down. Hybrid corn stands up well, but no stalks are yet built to buck a gale when a real one comes roaring out of the northwest."

The other came from the Brookings (S. Dak.) Register, and says:

"Who says these tree plantings aren't going to be worth the chips? Just the other day the Man in the Next Room paid a visit to Jim Biggar's farm southeast of town where Jim has recently completed work on a new corn crib and machine shed.

"Jim took the trouble to show him through the whole building and it's really built to last. He's got more trap doors and chutes around the place than The Register man ever imagined could be used in one building.

"But to get back to the original point. Jim has made the entire building from wood cut out of his father's tree claim. Last year he cut down some of the big cottonwoods and toted them down to Flandreau where they have a sawmill. They cut the logs up into boards, planks, beams, rafters, and what have you. Jim let the wood season all during the summer months and this fall made use of it in his new crib. With the exception of a few odds and ends he had around the place, the entire structure was built from the wood taken from this tree claim. The exterior of the crib was covered with corrugated iron. Now will you believe that maybe all these trees are worth while for more things than mere windbreaks!"

State Director Reitz contributes a third, this time from Capper's Farmer:

"Fred Rhode makes his farm shelterbelt in Barnes county, North Dakota, pay him a money return. When he put it out in 1923, he included 125 Russian olive seedlings in the planting. The trees have attained good size, and bear heavily. He gathers the seed and sells it to various nurseries. Returns run around \$100 a year, enough to pay Rhode's taxes."

SHELTERBELT NEWS GETS AROUND

That news regarding shelterbelt planting in the Plains States certainly travels far and wide is evinced by some of the applications and inquiries we have received in the Dodge City District this negotiation season.

A lady of Sioux City, Iowa, who owns land in Ford County, was in Dodge City this fall and called at our office to get the particulars on shelterbelt planting. She said, "I have heard so much about the shelterbelt program in Iowa I decided I was going to have one on my farm if I could get one." She signed an application for a half-mile shelterbelt, located so as to protect her buildings, garden site, feed lots and cultivated land.

For more evidence of this far-flung interest, we received an inquiry from a Miss Clara Konda, working in the Accounting Department in Hotel New Yorker, in New York City. She wrote in part, "As I am very much interested in trees, and your program, will you please give me the following information on your program, etc.? I am completely unfamiliar with the requirements on this particular Project, but it looks like a very excellent one." This is encouraging to me as it shows we are getting some good publicity on this work.

- Jewell G. Harrison, Kans.

PLANTING TREES IN THE PLAINS

The work of the year in experimental tree planting in the plains has had as its special feature the introduction of conifers into existing plantations and the establishment of conifer nurseries at the several stations. Three hundred and twenty-five thousand pines have been set at the eleven stations maintained by the division, and 300,000 additional have been distributed to responsible farmers throughout the plains region in quantities sufficient for plantations of 1 to 5 acres. The favorable conditions which prevailed generally throughout the West resulted in satisfactory growth, so far as reported. Arrangements for the propagation of conifers from seed to be furnished by the Department were perfected, which will result in a great reduction in the cost of stock.

During the year an illustrated bulletin on "Experimental tree planting in the plains" was issued.

Quoted by "Planting Quarterly" from the "Report of the Chief of the Division of Forestry" by Gifford Pinchot, 1898.

IRRIGATORS COMMEND PROJECT

Early in December the irrigation interests in Nebraska held a convention in Grand Island which was addressed by State Director Emerson. Among the seven resolutions adopted by the convention was one declaring the Shelterbelt Project to be well adapted to the Great Plains area as moisture conservation and crop protection are essential to Nebraska's greatest contribution to national defense, and therefore recommending to Congress "a regular and adequate appropriation be made annually for this project."

CALLING ON OPACS

Thumbing through a tree seed catalog recently I noticed that Austrian pine seed is quoted at \$1.00 per ounce. Contrast this with a price of \$1.00 a pound for this same species before the outbreak of the war and you get some idea about the effect of the war on the price of commodities previously imported from continental European countries.

Fortunately this section of the country has produced a better than average crop of Austrian pine the past two years and we have therefore collected ample seed to keep up our production of this species. Our collections of course have been limited to areas within reach of our labor and thus there are a good many places where Austrian pine trees are bearing cones as yet uncollected. It is, I think, safe to assume that farm boys and others would jump at the chance to collect and sell these cones if they were aware of the marketing possibilities. In contrast to Ponderosa pine, which opens its cones and spills its seed shortly after maturity, the Austrian pine retains its cones unopened on the trees until midwinter or later, thereby affording a good opportunity for collectors to gather the cones over a four or five months' period.

- Harold E. Engstrom, R.O.

CHILE TO HAVE A SHELTERBELT PROJECT

The following news story appeared recently in the Christian Science Monitor:

CHILE TO ERECT BARRIER OF TREES TO STEM STEADY MARCH OF DESERT

Santiago, Chile--An expenditure of 25,000,000 pesos, about \$807,000, is announced by Leoncio Chaparro, President of the Agricultural Colonization Bank, to bisect northern Chile with a forestal barrier to the great Atacama Desert, which has been moving southward toward the central, populated area at the rate of one kilometer a year.

When the Spanish conquistadors came down from Peru and arrived in Copiapo-- a mining town in the Atacama Desert--they called this spot San Francisco de la Selva. Actually, there was a selva--forest--from Copiapo to the Huasco. Today, this stretch of territory is semi-desert, with trees and grass eaten up and the fauna driven back by the advancing desert, accompanied by acts of human hands which become more desperate with the scarcity in nature.

In the last days of the Spanish Colony, farms were still assessed on their pasture capacity. Some of these ran to 200 head of cattle. All this has changed within a little more than a century. In these same districts today there are but a few patches of stubble for wild goats. As far south as Serena there is a shortage of firewood.

Against this implacable advance of the desert there is only one remedy--a forestal barrier stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the Andean mountain chain. The line chosen runs south of the port of Coquimbo. The trees will be supplemented by an indigenous association of shrubs, grass and a variety of semi-tropical flora. It will be no thin line, but "defense in depth."

Senor Chaparro is confident that the barrier, when developed, will bring rain to make the desert recede and regenerate the province of Coquimbo. With the passage of centuries there would also be the prospect of recuperating Atacama. But that might have its drawbacks. For farther north are the rich deposits of nitrates. Rain would not suit that industry.

Seems like a shelterbelt planting program just can't get started without being saddled with a burden of improbable virtues.

COOPERATOR RIGS UP A NEW CULTIVATOR

A new tool, the single-row shelterbelt hoe, has been added to the already long list of tools used in cultivating shelterbelts.

In composition, this machine is a regular horse-drawn single-row cultivator, with the two center shovels removed from their brackets and replaced with two old plow shares, then the angle of these "shares" adjusted so that both throw the dirt "out."

This machine will eliminate the use of the grape and berry hoe entirely in those shelterbelts where the trees can still be straddled. Below are listed a few of the advantages of this machine other than the one previously mentioned:

1. Requires only one man to operate it.
2. Utilizes farm equipment ordinarily on hand.
3. It is inexpensive. The plow shares are scraps lying around the farm lot and the riveting of these shares to the bracket costs approximately \$.50.
4. Does a speedy job. A complete row job (machine) is done at one time.
5. The machine is not patented (as far as I know).
6. It can be converted to ridge up such crops as potatoes by simply adjusting the angle of the blades.

The disadvantage of this machine lies in the fact that it is useable only while the trees can still be straddled.

It would only be fair to give due credit to its owner, Mr. Tom Williamson, of Aurora, Nebraska, the proud owner of two shelterbelts each one-half mile in length.

(A picture of this converted outfit may be had on request).

- John J. Zaylskie, N. Dak.

Any good business man knows that an executive who makes himself indispensable to his organization is thereby a failure as an executive. The really efficient executive knows that man is but mortal flesh. He builds an organization that can function without him when the time comes.

- Clipped

SHELTERBELT OWNER CARES FOR PARTRIDGES

Our first report was received this week of anyone seeing a bunch of chukkars in the rough. Sam Hansen reports seeing a hen some few weeks ago with a mighty fine bunch of little chukkars. Maybe in a few years we can get this highly satisfactory game bird started here in Kingman county.

Sam brings in a mighty fine suggestion for farmers who have shelter belts on their farms. About harvest Sam planted several rows of row crop the entire length of his shelter belt, which he does not intend to cut but to leave for feed for the birds this winter. Sam further reports that he has two fine covies of birds in this shelterbelt which were not planted by him but simply moved in on account of the excellent protection afforded. Unfortunately most of our shelterbelts are rather far removed from sufficient water for the birds. Good sport that Sam is, this did not bother him a bit. He has a windmill close to his belt and he has a very ingenious scheme rigged up so that the birds get plenty of water without going too far from their shelter. More good sports like Sam and we will see a fine lot of birds raised in this county in the new few years. We believe the shelterbelts are a great thing for bird cover.

- Hunting and Fishing News column
of Kingman (Kans.) Leader-Courier

TWELVE THINGS TO REMEMBER

Perhaps the "Twelve Things To Remember" propounded by Marshall Field will be of interest to the readers of PLAINS FORESTER.

1. The value of time.
2. The success of perseverance.
3. The pleasure of working.
4. The dignity of simplicity.
5. The worth of character.
6. The powers of kindness.
7. The influence of example.
8. The obligation of duty.
9. The wisdom of economy.
10. The virtue of patience.
11. The improvement of talent.
12. The joy of originating.

- Theodore E. Raide, Okla.

THAR SHORE IS, PARDNER

From the far reaches of southwestern Nebraska comes a copy of a circular letter from the county agent of Dundy County to the farmers of that section, extolling the benefits of the shelterbelt planting program. It advises farmers to take advantage of it, and as a "cracker," shows a pleased farmer gazing fondly upon a grove of trees and saying "Thar's gold in them thar trees!"

DISTRICT FORESTER AS MEDIATOR

When I left to contact a prospective cooperator on December 5, little did I realize the situation for which I was headed.

The intended "victim" was not at home, a very unusual circumstance in itself. So I proceeded a mile farther to see the tenant. He was very agreeable and after a very short session and no coercion he signed the cooperative agreement. I explained that his landlord was not at home so I came to get his signature to prevent missing the tenant when I finally caught the landlord. I mentioned that the landlord must not have gone far as his garage door was open and smoke was curling from the chimney.

The tenant informed me: "If the garage door is open he will be back in a very short time as he always locks the place tighter than a drum, in fact it is locked up so much of the time I don't know whether he lives there anymore." I went back toward the landlord's, thinking it didn't sound as though a very cordial relationship existed, and sure enough, my man was just getting out of his car.

As we had previously agreed that he should have a shelterbelt, I proceeded to go through the agreement with him. When the page was turned, he noticed the signature already at the bottom and exploded: "That fellow isn't my tenant," after which he explained to me all the undesirable traits of tenants in general and one in particular. I was naturally interested, as I had never heard their faults so voluminously exposed.

I insisted that the fellow must believe himself still to be the tenant as we talked of only one location for the shelterbelt, but that I would like to clear up the matter in order to complete negotiations without another trip. So I went back to the tenant's farm and gave him the situation in all its dire aspects. He said that he hadn't stopped in to see his landlord as he had been busy, and concluded his landlord was also since he was so seldom home. He accompanied me willingly.

When we got back, there was quite a pow-wow, and two of us learned how to farm properly in one easy lesson - incidentally not too easy for the tenant to take, but he agreed that he could still learn.

After all agreements were signed I came away with nearly a mile of shelterbelt signed up, and the last I saw of the pair they were going to the turnip patch where the landlord was going to give his tenant two bushels of turnips.

- Paul H. Talich, Kans.

ANOTHER BOUQUET FROM DEFENSE BOARD

Anent Al Ford's article in November PLAINS FORESTER regarding Foresters in Agricultural Defense. At the last monthly meeting of the North Dakota Agricultural Defense Board, the two men of the Defense Board who have been attending the County and Community meetings, Harry D. Lohse, Chairman, and

E. G. Booth, SMA, commented upon the excellent work our foresters had done in conducting such meetings. Lohse said he did not believe we knew we had such good talent. I told him we knew they were good and we considered it part of their job, but we are glad to know they were doing a good piece of work.

Incidentally, our field men have attended 68 Defense meetings and of these have conducted or assisted in 39. In fact, it has taken so much of their time they are behind in their negotiations.

- F. E. Cobb, N. Dak.

WOULD TREE OF HEAVEN (AILANTHUS) DO?

Kansas has some very fine shelterbelt cooperators, but we are feeling just a little proud of an application received from Mrs. Angel for a planting to be made in Paradise.

For the benefit of any doubting Thomases (and there always seem to be such), the cooperator is Mrs. Ada Angel, who lives at Paradise, Kansas. Paradise is located in the northwestern part of the State in Russell County. We're thinking that Mr. Griswold, District Forester, will have to do quite some studying in order to determine the species of trees good enough to plant in Paradise.

When he has completed the planting in Paradise, it is possible that Mr. Griswold may be called upon to make a planting in the Garden of Eden, which lies just 22 miles east of Paradise. More doubting Thomases? This Garden of Eden, a privately-owned rural tract located near Lucas, Kansas, contains a group of Biblical characters sculptured from stone. It appears that a few trees (too bad we don't plant apple trees) would add to the setting.

Oh, it's interesting to check applications--especially in Kansas.

- Maxine Carlson, Kans.

CULTIVATION METHODS AS NUMEROUS AS TREE HAS ROOTS

The north wind is cold and has put my thoughts to fire and famine, to war and peace, to destruction and building, and last, to reading and writing (mostly reading on Unofficial Time). I was put on the spot when I was induced by the State Director to write a few lines for our house organ and it got me to thinking that if I did not write something I would get a Form 403 (maybe I'll get one anyway), and if I do write I may get a raise in salary to offset those new taxes we are going to pay.

My thoughts drift back to the cultivation season when I was on my tour of cultivation contacts and observations. I made note of a particular shelterbelt planting. It is always an inspiration for me to go by this planting to look it over and talk with the farmer. His shelterbelt has done well even under the adverse conditions of the past few years which the planting has lived through.

I was comparing his belts with the many hundreds of others I have visited, and observed that there are as many cultivation methods as there are trees

in a mile-long shelterbelt, also about as many types of cultivation equipment or machinery to do the cultivation job. This cooperater knew that to cultivate the trees properly he had to have something different from what he had. He purchased a three-section, spring-tooth harrow. Each section being removable is three feet in width. The first year he used all three sections, and the next he used two, and the third year only one section. He could also adjust the depth of the teeth to cultivate shallow or deep as he saw fit, depending on such factors as amount of weeds, height of weeds, moisture, and soil structure. This piece of equipment did an excellent job of cultivation, and besides that it left the ground in good shape to hold moisture without much run-off of the rains.

In further observation this spring-tooth harrow did not cut or expose the fine lateral tree roots. These surface tree roots were intermingling with the roots of the other trees in the other rows as well as in the same row. This intermingling of roots saved the rows being eroded. Now if this farmer had used the prevailing type of tool for cultivation, these small lateral surface roots would have been destroyed and a greater amount of erosion resulted.

- Theodore E. Raide, Okla.

NOVEL EXHIBIT

Leroy C. Baskin, of North Dakota, reports on an exhibit at the Valley City, North Dakota, Corn and Lamb Show which, to this office at least, embodies a new idea.

The exhibit consisted solely of a small booth with a counter on which was displayed a number of jars of fruit. In the back of the booth was an enlarged picture of an orchard from which the fruit was obtained, and the orchard is seen to be protected by a very vigorous shelterbelt. A card says, "A shelterbelt protects this orchard."

Baskin says that the exhibit drew quite a lot of interest and that many of the persons who stopped expressed surprise that such fruit could be grown locally.

THEY'VE RUNG AGAIN

And we don't mean Christmas bells! We mean the wedding bells that chimed for Harry Eaton, in charge of our Broken Bow (Nebr.) office, and his lovely blonde bride, formerly Virginia Thompson, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The air was blue with smoke for awhile after his last visit to the Regional Office - the men all going around with prosperous airs smoking big, black cigars. Harry had convinced "us girls" at the Regional Office that he was entirely immune to all feminine wiles, and then he springs this surprise. We weren't easily consoled at losing one of the few eligible bachelors on the Project, but anyway we join whole-heartedly with the men in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Eaton a life of unified happiness.

